HEALTH
A 23 MAR 1945
O.R. 37

COUNTY COUNCIL OF SALOP.

ANNUAL REPORT

for

1943

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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County Medical Officer of Health.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, M.D., D.P.H.

SHREWSBURY,

March, 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
and Housing Committee.

Sir, Ladies and Gentleman,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1943, which, owing to staffing difficulties mainly attributable to war-time conditions, it has not been possible to complete at an earlier date.

In accordance with official requirements, the Report has been curtailed as far as possible, and therefore consists chiefly of statistical records; but it is considered that it contains sufficient information to indicate the scope of the Health Services for which the County Council is responsible.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

William Taylor

County Health Offices,
Shrewsbury.

March, 1945.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1943.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.

Area (in acres) of Administrative County		861,800
Population (Census 1931)		244,156
Estimated Population Mid Year 1943	(for Birth and Death rates	260,900
	(Urban - for Birth and Death rates	132,700
	(Rural - for Birth and Death rates	128,200
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census) 1931		59,553
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census) 1931		60,904
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1943)..		£1,314,248
Sum represented by a penny rate		£5,224.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of Registrar-General.

		Male.	Female.	Male & Female.	Rates.
Live Births	Legitimate ..	2,299	2,271	4,570	17.51
	Illegitimate.	184	161	345	1.32
	Total	2,483	2,432	4,915	18.8
Still-births:	Total	90	80	170	33.4 - Rate per 1,000 (live and still births.
Deaths	: Total	1,621	1,565	3,186	12.2

Deaths of women in, or in consequence of, child-birth :-

Total .. .. 11 or 2.2 per 1,000 live births.

From Puerperal Sepsis 4

From other Puerperal causes. 7

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :-

All Infants per 1,000 live births 36

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 32

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 58

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 494

" " Measles (all ages) 9

" " Whooping Cough (all ages) 11

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 8

" " Diphtheria (all ages) 6

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population. - The estimated population of the County at the middle of the year was, for Birth-rates and Death-rates, 260,900.

Marriages. - The number of marriages was 1,805, a decrease of 625 on last year's figures (2,430).

Births. - There were 4,915 births in 1943 an increase of 75 as compared with 1942, the birth-rates being 18.8 and 18.0 per thousand of the population respectively. (The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1943 was 16.5 per thousand).

Deaths. - The number of deaths in 1943 was 3,186 or an increase of 213 as compared with the preceding year. The death-rate for 1943 was 12.2, and for 1942, 11.05. (The death-rate for England and Wales was 12.1.)

Cancer. - The number of deaths from cancer during the year was 494 or 42 more than in the previous year, the death rates being 1.893 and 1.680 per thousand of the population respectively, or and increase of 0.213 as compared with the year 1942.

Infant Mortality - The number of children who died before reaching the age of twelve months was 177, or 41 less than in 1942. The infant mortality rate was 36 per thousand live births, which was 13 less than the rate for England and Wales. In 1942, the rate was 45 per thousand, 4 less than for England and Wales.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There was an increase in the number of cases of Infectious Disease as will be noted on reference to the statistical table, the chief increases being in Measles (2,411), Whooping Cough(354) and Acute Pneumonia (155). Notifications of Diphtheria were fewer however for the third consecutive year.

RETURN OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Sanitary Districts.	Population Census. 244,156.	Scarlet Fever. 1	Whooping Cough. 2	Diphtheria (including Membraneous Croup). 3	Measles (excluding Rubella). 4	Acute Pneumonia. 5	Cerebro - Spinal Fever. 6	Acute Poliomyelitis. 7	Acute Polio-Encephalitis. 8	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica. 9	Dysentery. 10	Ophthalmia Neonatorum. 11	Puerperal Pyrexia. 12	Small-pox 13	Enteric (Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fever). 14	Erysipelas. 15	Chicken-pox. 16
Rural ...	122,491	225	385	15	1575	159	5	2	-	-	5	31	28	-	3	19	-
Urban ...	121,665	185	320	38	1627	191	4	3	-	-	26	17	35	-	2	15	-
Totals for 1943		410	705	53	3202	350	9	5	-	-	31	48	63	-	5	34	-
Totals for 1942		335	351	121	791	195	28	1	-	1	47	35	79	-	10	60	-
Increase (+) or Decrease (-)		+75	+354	-68	+2411	+155	-19	+4	-	-1	-16	+13	-16	-	-5	-26	-

Diphtheria Immunisation :- Efforts to encourage Diphtheria Immunisation were made by advertisement in newspapers circulating in the County; through the Monthly Letter sent by the Shropshire Federation of Womens Institutes to all Womens Institutes in the County; by a leaflet on diphtheria immunisation issued with each child's ration book in twenty of the Urban and Rural Districts; by addresses at Welfare Clinics, and by visits of Health Visitors to the homes of the children.

The number of children immunised by the Assistant School and Child Welfare Medical Officers totalled 5,888, of whom 3,159 were under 5 years of age and 2,729 over 5 years of age. In 1942, the numbers were 2,949 under 5 years of age and 1,525 over 5 years of age, or a total of 4,474 children.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

There is no change in the position in respect of isolation hospital accommodation since my last report.

VACCINATION.

In 1942 there were 4,780 births registered, 1,282 declarations of conscientious objection and 2,023 certificates of successful primary vaccination, the equivalent of 43.32 per cent of the total births for the year.

During 1943, there were 4,915 live births and 1,402 declarations of conscientious objection; and the total number of certificates of successful primary vaccination of children under 14 years received was 2,174. This figure may not be absolutely final but it gives a percentage of consents of 44.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL SERVICES.

There has been no fundamental change during 1943 in the arrangements for the administration of the Institutional Medical Services transferred from the late Boards of Guardians or in the matter of Public Assistance Medical Out-Relief.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births. - The number of live births notified or otherwise ascertained, including those which occurred in the Borough of Shrewsbury, an independent Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, was 4,927, and the number of still-births was 167.

Visits paid by Health Visitors.

Health Visiting Staff.	To Children.				To Expectant Mothers.
	under 1 year.				
	First	Total	1 to 5 years	Total	
Whole-time (15)	2,747	12,518	16,760	29,278	700
Part-time	1,538	14,241	14,498	28,739	9,229
Totals for 1943	4,285	26,759	31,258	58,017	9,929.

Cases and Attendances at Welfare Centres in 1943 and 1942.

Children.							
Under one year.				Between one and five years.			
New Cases.		Total Attendances		New Cases		Total Attendances	
1943	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942
1,889	1,820	21,592	17,973	1,067	1,148	16,758	17,897.

Expectant Mothers.

Welfare Centres.	New Cases.		Total Cases		Total Attendances.	
	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943.
Bridgnorth	82	60	85	70	202	142
Bishop's Castle. ..	21	10	21	14	51	43
Church Stretton. ..	14	32	14	36	26	90
Dawley.	44	44	51	50	122	106
Donnington	7	19	7	20	8	43
Ellesmere	15	15	20	18	40	49
Highley	9	4	10	7	19	7
Ironbridge	55	18	91	20	135	63
Ludlow	73	67	98	69	147	139
Market Drayton . ..	120	83	142	127	330	395
Newport	91	55	108	63	332	176
Oakengates	33	31	39	32	105	142
Oswestry	50	47	60	51	161	91
Wellington	75	64	107	70	218	229
Wem	44	42	55	51	129	142
Whitchurch	41	28	46	35	152	135
Totals	774	619	954	733	2,177	1,992
Increase (+) Decrease (-)	-155		-221		-185	

Under an arrangement with the Borough of Shrewsbury, 24 expectant mothers made 37 attendances, and 47 children under five years of age made 134 attendances, at the Shrewsbury Child Welfare and Ante-natal Clinic.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. - During the year 50 cases were notified, 13 more than in the previous year. All the cases recovered with apparently no injury to the eyesight.

County Home for Ailing Babies - The number of babies admitted to the Home was 53 (which is one more than the number admitted in the previous year), and the average duration of stay was 66 days.

Provision of Artificial Limbs - The Child Welfare Scheme has been extended by providing, in addition to surgical treatment, artificial limbs for children under five, subject to each case being considered by the Public Health Committee on its merits.

War-time Nurseries. In order to facilitate the employment of women with children in industry and at the instigation of the Ministry of Health, War-time Nurseries were opened in the County at each of the following places :- Donnington on the 15th February Madeley, on the 1st March and Oakengates and Wellington on the 22nd March.

Accommodation and Attendances.

Location	Accommodation	Average daily attendance of Children		
		Ages 0 - 5 yrs.	0 - 2 yrs	2 - 5 yrs.
Donnington	60 Children	24.8	8.8	16.0
Madeley	50 "	9.1	1.4	7.7
Oakengates	50 "	13.0	5.9	7.1
Wellington.	50 "	26.2	10.5	15.7
	210	18.3	6.6	11.7

The number of children placed in War-time Nurseries by the parents steadily increased at Donnington and Wellington to about 30 and 35 at the end of the year but at Madeley and Oakengates there were only 6 and 12 respectively at the end of the year. The question of the closure of these Nurseries was considered and that at Madeley was closed in February, 1944, but as at the Oakengates Nursery there had been over 20 children in attendance during November, the question of closure in this instance was left for further consideration until the Spring of 1944. Each Nursery is in charge of a State-Registered Nurse as Matron and at both Donnington and Wellington there is a certificated Teacher who gives instruction to children from 2 to 5 years of age.

Child Life Protection. - The following are the particulars of cases supervised during the last seven years :-

		1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Number of Cases	- On 1st Jan.	143	123	112	90	86	105	94
Number of New Cases	- during the year	22	24	24	26	66	32	31
No. of Cases removed from Register.	(reached 9 yrs of age	15	11	20	15	14	10	8
	(legally adopted	4	4	4	3	4	6	6
	(left County	8	10	5	3	11	9	4
	(removed to relatives	13	10	17	9	16	18	10
	(died	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
	(removed to places of safety	0	0	0	1	2	0	2
Number of Cases	- On 31st Dec.	123	112	90	86	105	94	95

Adoption of Children (Registration) Act, 1939. - The provisions of this Act were brought into operation on the 1st June by an order in Council and the Public Health Sub-Committee have been authorised to exercise the Council's powers and functions under the Act.

Midwifery Services. - In 1942 there were 173 midwives practising in the County. In 1943 there were 146 registered midwives engaged in midwifery practice in Shropshire.

Dental Treatment. - 13 mothers and 14 children under 5 years of age received treatment from the School Dental Officers.

Payments to Medical Practitioners under Midwives Acts. - The number of claims for payment under the Midwives Acts sent in by medical practitioners was 630 and payments amounting to £1,229 were made during 1943. During the previous year the claims numbered 801 and payments totalled £1,141.

Statistics relating to Work under Midwives Acts.

Year	Midwives practising in December	Visits of Inspection.	Notifications received from Midwives.					
			Medical Help	Still-birth.	Death of Mother or child	Artificial Feeding.	Liability to be a source of infection.	Having laid out a dead body.
1937	242	359	1223	40	23	67	140	62
1938	202	458	1190	40	23	57	136	61
1939	233	505	1240	39	21	52	169	31
1940	221	597	1390	49	17	60	160	42
1941	185	271	1479	60	30	110	144	35
1942	173	344	1466	59	29	39	130	49
1943	181	335	1402	56	35	137	200	35

Maternal Deaths. - In 1943, there were in Shropshire 13 maternal deaths directly or indirectly due to pregnancy. In 4 of these a doctor had been engaged prior to the confinement. The Maternal Death-rate in this County, according to the official returns of the Registrar-General, was 2.2 per thousand live births, as compared with 1.2 per thousand for the previous year.

The following table gives particulars relating to maternal deaths in this County since 1930 and it will be observed that 93 deaths out of a total of 228 were the result of a first pregnancy. This fact brings out the great importance of attendance to the health and general well-being of the mother who is approaching her first confinement.

Maternal Deaths - 1930 - 1943.

	Causes of Death investigated.				Death-rate per 1,000 live births		
					Shropshire		England and Wales.
	All causes	Puerperal Pyrexia	Other	Number in first confinement	Local Statistics	Official Statistics	
Total (1930 -42)	228	77	151	93	4.21	4.02	-
1943	13	1	12	3	2.6	2.2	1.84.

During the year the opinion of the County Council Obstetrical Consultant was sought in 25 confinement cases.

Puerperal Pyrexia. - During the year 81 cases of Perperal Pyrexia, one of whom died, were notified. In the previous year 82 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified, two of whom died.

Pemphigus. - Twenty cases of Pemphigus occurred during the year. There were no deaths.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

Registration. - The Local Supervising Authority has power to grant exemption from registration in certain cases, and registration has not been insisted upon in the case of the following Institutions :-

Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Shrewsbury.
King Edward Vll. Memorial Sanatorium, Shirlett.
Lady Forester Hospitals, Broseley and Much Wenlock.
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.
Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.
Cottage Hospital, Market Drayton.

Inspection. - Nursing Homes are visited regularly by the Inspector of Midwives, and an effort is made to visit each Home once a quarter. During the year 122 inspections were made.

Accommodation provided.- During the year 1943 one new Nursing Home was registered and two certificates were cancelled.

No. of Homes taking general cases only 10
Patient accommodation 100 beds and 2 cots

No. of Homes taking maternity cases only 4
Patient accommodation 16 beds

No. of Homes taking both maternity and general cases .. 14
Patient accommodation 179 beds and 2 cots.

In all, therefore, there are 28 Homes on the Register, the total patient accommodation being 295 beds and 4 cots.

COUNTY COUNCIL HOSPITAL.

Below are given particulars of the cases treated at the Hospital during 1943 with, for purposes of comparison, the corresponding figures for 1942 :-

	Adults.				Children.					
	Men		Women		Under 5 yrs.		5 - 16		Total.	
	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942
*Cases in Hospital, Jan 1st.	31	51	63	61	30	29	2	4	126	145
*Total Admissions..	259	345	971	910	583	605	44	82	1857	1942
*Total Discharges	188	318	912	873	550	571	38	83	1688	1845
*Total Deaths	78	47	44	35	29	33	3	1	154	116
*Cases in Hospital, Dec. 31st.	24	31	78	63	34	30	5	2	141	126

*As in former years, these figures include children born in hospital.

		1943	1942	1941	1940	1939.
No. of beds occupied during year	(Average	126	115	137	148	109
	(Highest	158	172	197	203	170
	(Lowest	96	94	109	112	75
No. of surgical operations performed in the Operating Theatre		213	267	290	386	134
Maternity Cases admitted		519	541	410	334	494

Maternal Deaths (of patients confined in Hospital) - 2.

Twelve huts are provided for the treatment of cases of Tuberculosis who for various reasons cannot be looked after at home. 32 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted during the year, 19 discharged and 13 died. Six cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted, 5 were discharged and there were 4 deaths.

Eight patients were treated by one of the School Dental Officers and 42 teeth were extracted, one local and seven general anaesthetics being given.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notification of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis, 1943.

Age periods of cases	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1
1 - 5	1	0	14	13	1	0	2	3
5 - 15	1	5	31	21	0	15	2	1
15 - 25	30	33	8	14	5	16	2	2
25 - 35	22	26	3	8	15	9	0	1
35 - 45	28	9	2	7	14	8	0	0
45 - 55	14	5	1	3	17	3	0	1
55 - 65	26	4	1	2	21	5	2	1
65 and upwards	6	2	2	2	6	0	1	0
	128	85	64	70	79	47	9	10
Totals for 1943	213		134		126		19	
Totals for 1942	208		146		91		28	

The number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis increased by five, and the number of deaths increased by thirty-five.

In the case of other forms of the disease the number of notifications decreased by 12, and there was a decrease of 9 in the number of deaths.

Visits of Tuberculosis Officers.

On notification .. 19 To suspicious cases 233
To contacts .. .. 33 On discharge from Sanatorium .. 11
On other occasions .. 188

Examination of Sputum. - The total number of sputum examinations made during the year was 870.

Shelters. - There are at present 140 shelters in the County, 131 of which have been provided by the County Council.

Artificial Pneumothorax.

Centre.	Number of cases treated.	Number of Refills given.
Shrewsbury Tuberculosis Dispensary	42	558
Wellington Public Assistance Institution	40	880
Shirlett Sanatorium (out-patients).	6	93
	88	1,531.

Artificial Pneumothorax was induced in 35 new cases, and there are now 88 patients who regularly attend the Treatment Centres.

X-Ray Examination. - During 1943, one thousand, eight hundred and thirty three X-Ray Films were taken, an increase of 212 over the previous year.

Light Therapy. - During the year 27 cases attended, and 889 treatments were given.

Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints. - Such cases are dealt with under the Orthopaedic scheme.

Tuberculous Peritonitis.-An arrangement has been made with the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital for the treatment of patients suffering from tuberculous peritonitis.

Prees Heath Sanatorium. During the year 8 patients were admitted to Prees Heath Sanatorium. 2 were discharged, and 4 died.

Shirlett Sanatorium. - The following are the particulars of the admissions, discharges and deaths during 1943:-

	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
ADULTS.			
Males	56	51	1
Females	30	28	1
CHILDREN.			
Boys	1	3	..
Girls	2	1	..

Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Examination Centres.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.	No. of Cases who attended during the year.		Summary of Attendances			Total Attendances.
	Total	For the First time.	Notified Cases.	Non-notified Cases. Contacts.	Non-notified Cases. Suspects	
Shrewsbury	910	576	1,826	209	750	2,785
Oswestry	217	152	706	46	214	966
Wellington	630	334	2,649	180	530	3,359
Whitchurch	85	51	89	42	86	217
Ludlow	38	23	54	25	41	120
Bridgnorth	100	53	119	28	61	208.
	1,980	1,189	5,443	530	1,682	7,655.

In addition, under an arrangement made by the Church Stretton Care Committee, 3 sessions were held for examination of contacts and 34 attendances made.

Arrangements are also made for a Clinic to be held at Market Drayton at intervals, to encourage the attendance of persons who find that travelling difficulties prevent their coming to Shrewsbury or Wellington. Three sessions were held and 65 attendances made.

Dr. Watkin writes :- "The deaths in 1943 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were 126, showing an increase of 30% when compared with the deaths for the previous year. This is a sequel of the high notification rate observed in 1942. An increase under War conditions had been expected, but the fourth year of this War compares very favourably with 1918 - the fourth year of the first Great War - when the deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in this County were 222.

"Attendances at the Dispensaries have increased each year since the onset of the War. The total attendances in 1939 were 4,963, and in 1943 were 7,655. X-Ray examinations, Pheumothorax Refills, and other activities show a corresponding increase. "

Dr. Elliott writes :- "The increase in deaths, namely, 35 in deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1943 was to be expected owing to the strain of War-time conditions.

"The chief increase in the female deaths is in the age group 15 - 25, where there was an increase of nine.

"The chief increase in the male death rate is in the age group 55 - 65, where there is an increase of ten.

"If one considers the age group 35 - 65, there has been a very definite increase in male deaths during these ages since the War. In 1943 there were 52 deaths in this group, as against 23 in 1938, whilst the female deaths have remained almost stationary.

"This fact is very significant, as a large number of women between the ages of 35 and 65 are exempt from Compulsory National Service owing to family ties and the lower age of Compulsory Service for women. The men on the other hand, are working long hours at high pressure. One feels, therefore, that this is the cause of their breakdown, coupled with the fact that many of them are working in artificial light and insufficient ventilation - conditions unavoidable owing to the necessity for "Black-out" for Air Raid Precatuions.

"The same fact influences the increase in the death rate in young women between 15 and 25, and, as many of these are mobile and prefer to live at home, they often spend as much as two hours a day travelling to and from their work, which on top of the long hours of work makes a very long day with added strain, and especially in winter time curtails their facilities for any outdoor exercise and recreation.

"We must not expect a decrease in the death rate until normal conditions prevail once more."

Financial Allowances - Memo. 266 T.

Particulars of Allowances being paid on the 31st December, 1943 :-

Number of persons receiving Maintenance Allowances .. .. 30.

Number of above also receiving Discretionary Allowances paid in respect of Life Assurance Premiums .. .. 3.

Number of persons receiving Special Payments -

(a) in respect of the provision of domestic help .. .. 6.

(b) in respect of pocket money while in the Sanatorium or for other reasons .. .. 6.

ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME.

There is a central hospital at Park Hall, Oswestry, and after-care clinics, are held weekly at Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Wellington; fortnightly at Bridgnorth, Craven Arms, Dawley, Ellesmere, Ironbridge, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch; monthly at Newport and Oakengates.

Attendances at Clinics. - The following table gives particulars of the attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinics during 1943. The cases over sixteen years of age show an increase upon the figures for 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942, which may be taken as indicating that a large proportion of the school-discovered cases continue to need treatment after leaving school. The tuberculous cases, which are of all ages, are the smallest in number, but their attendances at the clinics as a rule extend over a very prolonged period.

Attendances at Orthopaedic After-Care Clinics, 1943.

Age Groups.	On Books 1.1.43	Admitted during 1943.	No. treated during 1943	dis-charged during 1943	On Books 31.12.43.	On Appliance Supervision 31.12.43.	Attendances during 1943.
Under 5 yrs.	481	335	816	275	541	-	1,755
5 - 16 yrs.	928	501	1,429	458	966	5	3,460
Over 16 yrs.	905	645	1,550	522	809	219	3,597
T.B. Cases all ages.	150	25	175	30	112	33	597
Totals	2,464	1,506	3,970*	1,285	2,428	257	9,409.

* The total number of individual patients was 3,867. Owing to age alterations and changes of diagnosis, 103 of these patients are included in more than one group.

Cases Admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital by the Public Health and Education Committees.

Persons suffering from conditions and defects of such a nature that they cannot be adequately dealt with at the After-Care Centres are admitted for treatment to the Orthopaedic Hospital. The following table gives particulars of such cases :-

Condition or defect.	Number of persons admitted.			
	Under 5 yrs.	5 - 16 yrs.	Over 16 yrs.	Total.
(a) Tuberculous	3	9	20	32
(b) Non-Tuberculous	21	75	23	119

Cost of Treatment of Cases in Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital

Scheme.	Average 1921-25.	Average 1926-30	Average 1931-35	Average 1936-40	Year 1940-41	Year 1941-42	Year. 1942-43.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tuberculosis	5,068	4,269	3,122	3,567	2,857	2,582	2,850
Med. Inspection	2,198	1,608	1,323	1,626	1,415	1,574	1,753
Child Welfare	1,051	778	331	452	833	716	912
Annual Average Cost	8,317	6,655	4,776	5,645	5,105	4,872	5,515

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938. - At the end of the year, 111 licences to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk and 652 licences to produce Accredited milk had been issued by the County Council. The position as compared with previous years is as follows :-

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943.
Tub. Tested	11	15	20	20	36	57	71	75	77	84	111
*Accredited	17	14	390	533	542	595	689	675	666	677	652

* Previous to 1936 its equivalent was designated "Grade A" milk.

Fourteen of the one hundred and eleven producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and sixteen of the six hundred and fifty-two Accredited milk producers have also been granted bottling licences by the County Council.

Inspection of Premises. - The County Sanitary Inspectors made 1,573 visits to farms during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sect. 25. - During the year, 12 reports were received from Medical Officers of Health that tubercle bacilli had been found in milk produced in this County. The herds involved in these complaints were examined, and three cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

Examination of Milk - Routine Sampling. - Of the 142 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk taken, 54 proved unsatisfactory; and of the 2,793 samples of Accredited milk 1,023 were found to be unsatisfactory. In addition 191 "Qualifying" samples of milk were collected, 83 of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year, 331 samples were collected, 301 being samples of milk and the remainder being samples of articles other than milk.

One hundred and twenty eight samples were found on analysis not to be genuine, 126 being milk samples, 1 being a Lime Cordial sample and 1 a Carbonate of Soda sample. Appropriate action was taken in each case and in 12 cases Court proceedings followed resulting in fines ranging from ten shillings to £30 exclusive of costs.

HOUSING.

The administration of the various Housing Acts is primarily the responsibility of the District Councils, and the chief responsibility of the County Council is with regard to housing in rural areas. The Act of 1936 makes it a duty of the County Council to keep in touch with housing conditions in Rural Districts, and to obtain information regarding housing conditions and housing progress from returns supplied by the Council of the Districts at least once a year. Furthermore, this Act makes it a duty of the County Council to contribute £1 per house for forty years in respect of houses built to meet the needs of the agricultural population. In this connection 234 houses have been approved for payment of the subsidy by the County Council.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938 - Under this Act it is the duty of the County Council to contribute £1 per house for a period of forty years in respect of each new house completed after the beginning of the year 1939, and erected for the purpose of accommodating workers of the Agricultural or similar classes, in respect of which the Minister of Health has undertaken to make an annual contribution of £10 per house, for a like period. Up to and including the 31st December, 1943, 129 houses had been approved for the annual grant mentioned above.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts. - The duty of administering these Acts has been delegated in this County to the District Councils.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Since the publication of my last annual report, no grants have been promised by the County Council in connection with Water Supply Schemes in the County under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Several of the schemes towards which the County Council had previously agreed to make contributions have been postponed owing to the War.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES.

During the year 1943, an application for a contribution towards the Donnington Sewerage Scheme was received from the Wellington Rural District Council, and the County Council agreed to pay twenty per cent of the estimated net capital cost of the Scheme (£16,850), the maximum contribution not to exceed £3,370.

MENTAL HEALTH.

Mental Treatment Act, 1930. - The report of the Shropshire Mental Treatment Act Joint Committee shows that the Medical Officer, Dr. W. Stanley Hughes, held weekly sessions of the Mental Treatment Clinic at the Royal Salop Infirmary, and that 45 new cases were seen during the year and re-visits were made in 28 cases.

The number of Temporary and Voluntary Patients who have been accommodated and received treatment at the Salop Mental Hospital during the same period was 39, five being "temporary" patients and 34 "voluntary" patients.

Mental Deficiency Acts 1913 to 1938. - Particulars of Mental Defectives as on 31st December, 1943, are as follows :-

A. - Mental Defectives "subject to be dealt with"

	M.	F.	T.
1. Under "Order" :-			
(a) In Institutions	95	123	218
On licence from Institutions ..	13	22	35
(b) Under Guardianship	6	19	25
On licence from Guardianship ..	1	2	3
2. In "Places of Safety"	-	-	-
3. Under Statutory Supervision	116	118	234
4. In Public Assistance Institutions ..	36	32	68
5. In Approved Homes	4	-	4

B. - Mental Defectives not "subject to be dealt with"

1. In Institutions or under Guardianship	3	4	7
2. Under friendly supervision of Local Authority			
(a) Between 14 and 16 years of age	41	18	59
(b) Over 16 years of age	407	280	687

School Cases. - The following are particulars of educable mentally defective children under the Salop Education Committee on 31st December, 1943.

	M.	F.	T.
In Special Schools	6	6	12
Awaiting Admission to a Special School	1	3	4
Under Supervision of School Nurses	67	40	107
	74	49	123

There are in addition 28 school children (14 boys and 14 girls) whose mental condition has been called in question, of whom it has been estimated that about 50 per cent will probably prove to be feeble-minded. It has thus been calculated that there is a total of 137 feeble-minded children under the Local Education Authority, who should be educable in Special Schools.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Cases of Venereal Disease Treated in 1942 and 1943.

Shrewsbury Clinic.

	Cases.						Attendances.					
	Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total.	
	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942	1943	1942
Syphilis	54	46	72	58	126	104	439	354	864	819	1303	1173
Soft Chancre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gonorrheoea	75	76	50	62	125	138	183	228	135	205	318	433
Other Conditions	68	73	97	47	165	120	130	125	318	174	448	299
Totals.	197	195	219	167	416	362	752	707	1317	1198	2069	1905
Increase (+) Decrease (-)	+2		+52		+54		+45		+119		+164	

Oswestry Clinic.

Syphilis	6	3	5	4	11	7	55	19	63	43	118	62
Soft Chancre	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gonorrhoea	15	11	8	10	23	21	23	26	28	41	51	67
Other Conditions	9	3	10	5	19	8	54	4	34	17	88	21
Totals	30	17	23	19	53	36	132	49	125	101	257	150
Increase (+) Decrease (-)	+13		+4		+17		+83		+24		+107	

Wolverhampton Clinic.

	Cases.		Attendances	
	1943	1942	1943	1942
Syphilis	3	2	-	-
Soft Chancre	-	-	-	-
Gonorrhoea	3	4	190	245
Other Conditions.	13	11	-	-
Totals.	19	17	190	245
Increase (+) Decrease (-)	+2		-55	

By Approved General Medical Practitioners

Cases - 1943	
Male	Female
1	-
-	-
-	1
1	1
2	2

Treatment by General Medical Practitioners. - General Medical Practitioners with the necessary qualifications who were willing to undertake at the expense of the County Council, in their own Surgeries, the treatment of patients suffering from Venereal Disease, dealt with during the year two male and two female cases (Males 1 syphilis, 1 other condition. Females 1 gonorrhoea, 1 other condition.)

Cleveland House, Wolverhampton. - This Hostel is available for girls and women suffering from Venereal Disease who are unsuitable for treatment at clinics. During the year no cases were admitted from this County.

Examination of Pathological Specimens from Treatment Centres.

	Culture	Serum	Microscopic.
Salop Clinics.	2	468	334
Wolverhampton Clinic.	9	81	81

BACTERIOLOGICAL, HAEMATOLOGICAL and BIOCHEMICAL DIAGNOSIS OF DISEASE.

DONALDSON HUDSON LABORATORY.

Examinations carried out for the County Council.

Throat, Nose and Ear Swabs.	For Diphtheria bacilli	1117
	" Haemolytic Streptococci	1417
	" Vincents Angina	999
	Other Examinations	72
Examinations for Tubercle Bacilli	Microscopic	1182
	Culture	974
	Other examinations	85
General Cultural Examinations of Sputum		40
Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms		646
Widals Tests		262
Venereal Diseases Examinations :-	Serological	889
	Bacteriological	703
Bacteriological Examinations of Water samples		756
Bacteriological Examinations of milk samples		148
Other Bacteriological Examinations		980
Haemotology	Blood counts etc.	358
Biochemical Examinations		302